

Georgia OEMS Update – Epidemiology and Operations

OEMST / Friday, 11/12/2021



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3

Agenda

- Epidemiology Report
- Vaccine Requirements from CMS and OSHA
- EMS Operations and LMS Updates
- Upcoming meetings
- Questions

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

5

COVID-19 Epidemiology Report

Dr. Cherie Drenzek



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

6

Epidemiology Report – Dr. Cherie Drenzek – graphs as of 11/10/2021
<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>

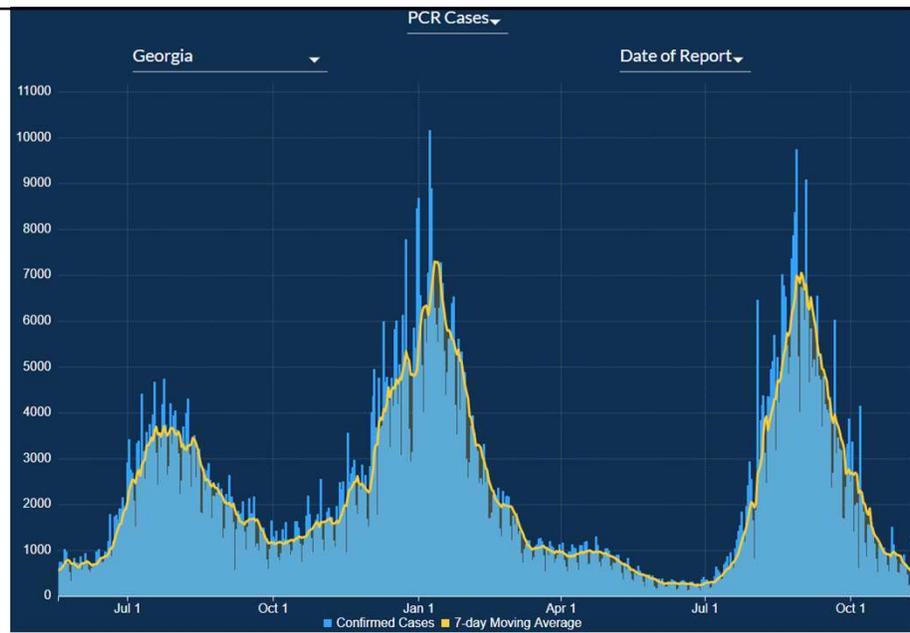
Confirmed Cases ⓘ	Confirmed Deaths ⓘ	Hospitalizations ⓘ
1,271,271	25,255	87,599
ICU Admissions ⓘ	Antigen Positive Cases ⓘ	Probable Deaths ⓘ
13,688	373,726	4,494

COVID-19 Testing ⓘ				
	Total PCR/ Molecular	PCR/Molecular Reported Today	Total Antigen	Total Antibody (Serology)
Number of Tests	12,632,244	18,301	3,784,153	667,934
Number of Positive Tests	1,290,534	692	333,048	181,837
% Positive	10.2%	3.8%	8.8%	27.2%

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

7

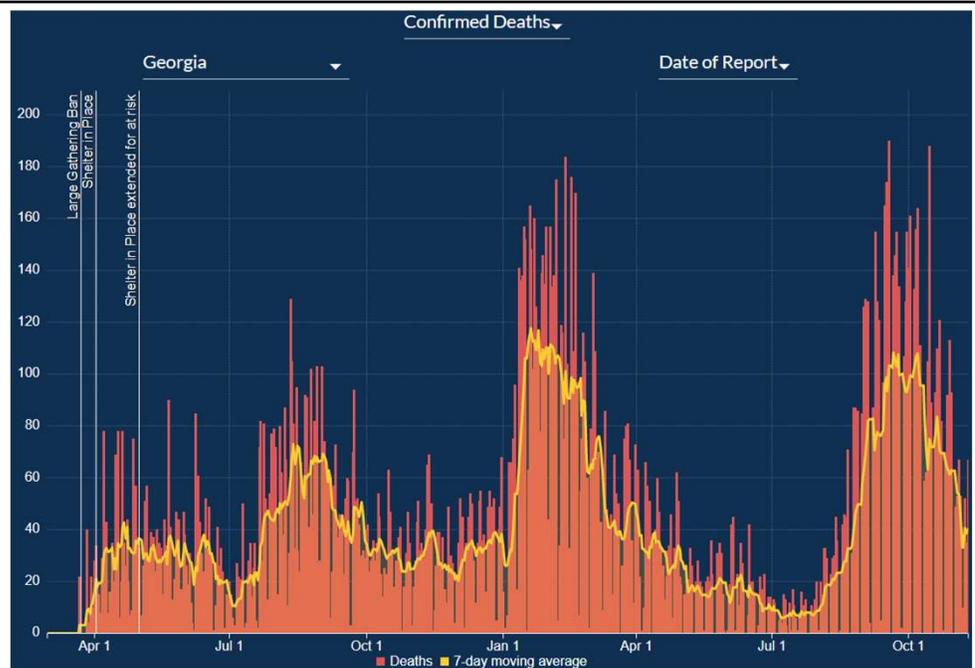
Cases Over Time (By date of report)



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

8

Confirmed Deaths by Date of Report

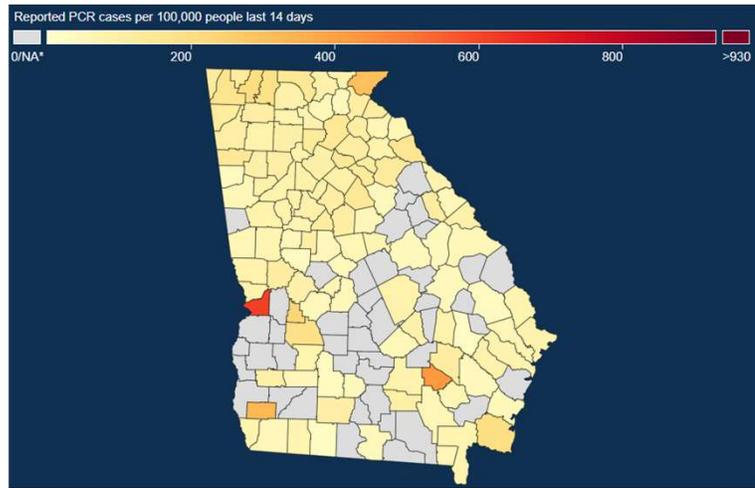


GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

9

Reported cases per 100,000 people last 14 days - as of 11/10/2021

Georgia - November 10
 Cases (last 2 weeks): 9,837
 Cases per 100k (last 2 weeks): 91
 Cases (total): 1,271,271
 Cases per 100k (total): 11,735
 Population: 10,833,472



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

10

Vaccination Rates

	As of 4/8/21	As of 5/13/21	As of 7/15/21	As of 8/12/21	As of 9/08/21	As of 10/7/21	As of 11/10/21
At least one dose	28%	37%	44%	48%	52%	55%	57%
Fully vaccinated	15%	29%	39%	41%	45%	48%	50%

View the most up-to-date data here:

- <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3d8eea39f5c1443db1743a4cb8948a9c>

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

11

Questions for Dr. Drenzek

- Epidemiology

12

County Indicator Reports – Reminder

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/county-indicator-reports>

County Indicator Report

Introduction Cases Laboratory Tests Emergency Department Visits Emerging Counties High Transmission Counties Supplemental Maps **Community Transmission**

last updated: 11/08/2021
7-day date range: 10/30/2021 - 11/05/2021
metric descriptions

160 records

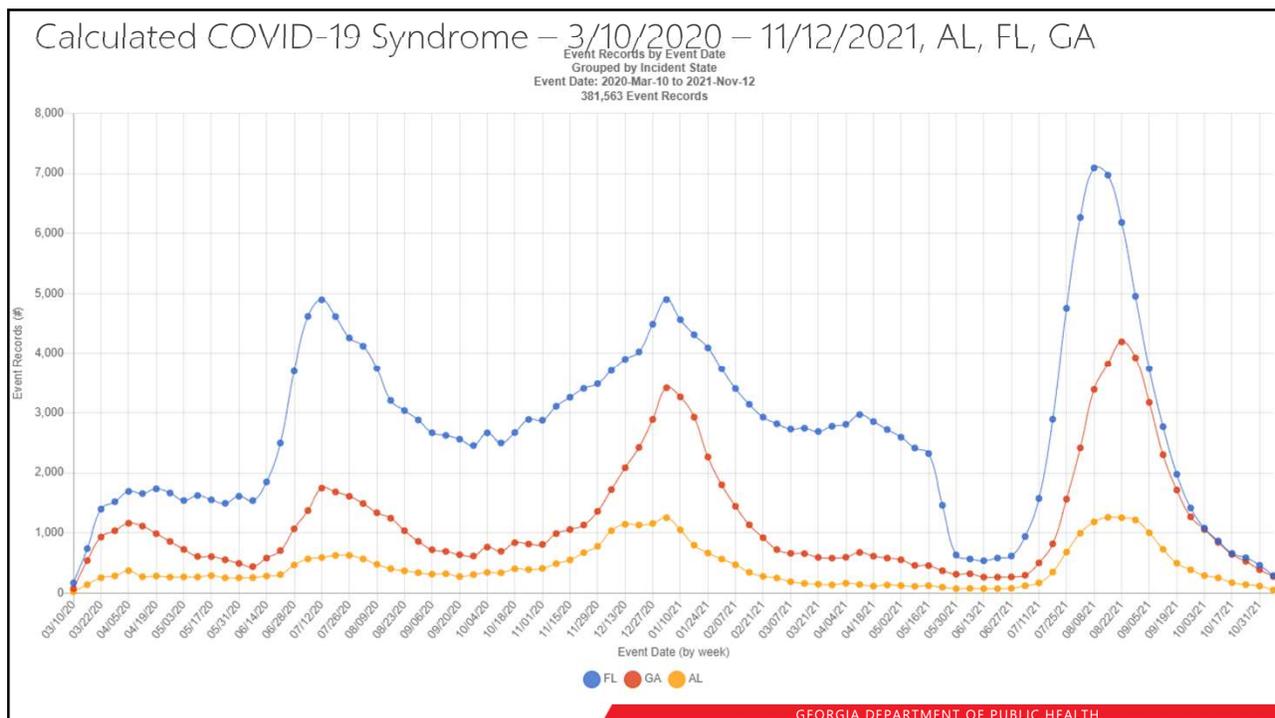
County or Statewide	Number confirmed cases (7 day)	7-day confirmed case rate (per 100k)	Number PCR tests (7 day)	PCR % positive (7 day)	Level of Community Transmission Indicator
STATEWIDE	4877	46	113174	2.5%	Moderate
APPLING	13	71	119	2.5%	Substantial
ATKINSON	2	Not Calculated	30	3.3%	Low
BACON	36	326	90	3.3%	High
BAKER	0	Not Calculated	16	0.0%	Low
BALDWIN	14	31	162	8.0%	Substantial

13

Counties (Count and % By Transmission Level)										
DATE-->	7/12/2021		8/9/2021		9/6/2021		10/7/2021		11/08/2021	
Transmission Level	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not Calculated	8	5.0%		0.0%		0.0%	1	0.63%	2	1.26%
Low	38	23.9%	1	0.6%		0.0%	5	3.14%	45	28.30%
Moderate	68	42.8%	1	0.6%		0.0%	3	1.89%	66	41.51%
Substantial	11	6.9%	1	0.6%		0.0%	21	13.21%	33	20.75%
High	34	21.4%	156	98.1%	159	100.0%	129	81.13%	13	8.18%
Grand Total	159	100%	159	100.0%	159	100%	159	100%	159	100%

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

14



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

15

Vaccines – CMS and OSHA

Melanie Simon, General Counsel



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

16

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Providers and Suppliers

- Emergency rule (86 FR 61555) effective November 5, 2021
- Applies to 15 types of Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

17

15 types of Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities

- Ambulatory Surgical Centers
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities
- End Stage Renal Disease Facilities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Home Health Agencies
- Home Infusion Therapy Suppliers
- Hospices
- Hospitals (including Critical Access Hospitals)
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
- Long Term Care Facilities (Nursing Facilities and Skilled Nursing Facilities)
- Outpatient Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology Clinics
- Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) (none in Georgia)
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (for children and youth)
- Rural Health Clinics

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

18

CMS Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Providers and Suppliers

Deadlines

- Requires 1st dose of vaccine by 12/6/2021 and complete series by 1/4/2022
- For new hires, must be fully vaccinated (2 weeks or more since completion) prior to serving patients

Acceptable Proof

- CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card (or a legible photo of the card)
- Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record
- State immunization information system record

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

19

CMS Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Providers and Suppliers

Exemptions

- Medical conditions
- Sincerely held religious beliefs, practices or observances

Applies to:

- Facility employees (unless 100% remote)
- Licensed practitioners
- **Students**, trainees and volunteers
- **Individuals who provide care, treatment, or other services for the facility and/or its patients by contract or under arrangement**

Excludes

- Individuals providing infrequent, ad-hoc, non-health care services (i.e., annual elevator inspection)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

20

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Vaccine Mandate for Large Employers

- Emergency Temporary Standard (86 FR 61402) effective November 5, 2021
- **Applies to private employers with 100 or more employees.** Also includes public workers in states with an OSHA State Plan – Georgia is not one of these states.
- By December 6, 2021, employers must either implement a *mandatory vaccination requirement* or an *alternative policy* that allows employees to choose either to be fully vaccinated or to be regularly tested and wear a face covering.
- **Employers must collect and maintain records of their employees' vaccination statuses by December 6, 2021.** As of that date, all workers who are not fully vaccinated must wear face coverings when indoors or inside a vehicle with others for work purposes.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

21

OSHA Vaccine Mandate for Large Employers

By December 6, 2021, employers must encourage and support vaccination by:

- providing workers with information about vaccination policy, regulations, and safety;
- permitting paid time off to receive a vaccine; and
- allowing paid sick leave for recovery from vaccination side effects.

Starting January 4, 2022, employees who are not fully vaccinated must be tested for COVID if they come to the workplace.

- The ETS requires employers to ensure that each employee who is not fully vaccinated is tested for COVID-19 at least weekly (if in the workplace at least once a week) or within 7 days before returning to work (if away from the workplace for a week or longer).

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

22

OSHA Vaccine Mandate for Large Employers

- Employers must require employees to provide prompt notice when they test positive for COVID-19 or receive a COVID-19 diagnosis. Employers must then remove the employee from the workplace, regardless of vaccination status; employers must not allow them to return to work until they meet required criteria.
- Mandate applies to both part-time and full-time workers. Remote workers are not subject to the mandate, but do count toward the 100 employee threshold.
- Exemptions are allowed for medical and religious reasons.
- Attestations of vaccination status are acceptable if worker cannot produce official documentation.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

23

PWW Webinar - FYI

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates – What the CMS and OSHA Rules Mean for EMS

- Monday, 11/15/2021
- <https://www.pwwmedia.com/store/webinars/covid-19-vaccine-mandates-%E2%80%93-what-cms-and-osha-rules-mean-ems>

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

24

EMT-R License Level

Kelly Joiner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

25

EMT-R

Rules became effective on 10/27/2021

- As of 11/10/2021 @ 3pm, 41 EMT-R licenses have been issued

NREMT has indicated that 243 currently certified EMRs live in Georgia (as of 10/20/2021)

- Email sent from OEMST to all 243 to indicate new license level and application process
- **NOTE: Age requirement for EMT-R is 18 years**

EMT-R by EMS Agencies

- The protocols for your agency will need to be updated to reflect this level of licensure
 - Must be submitted to the Department using the **Update EMS Agency Protocols, Pharmacy, Data Management** application through LMS.

EMT-Rs on 911 Ground Ambulances

- Not permitted unless agency has received approval from OEMST
- If your EMS agency needs to utilize the EMT-R license level to routinely staff ground ambulances that respond to Public Calls (911 calls):
 - An attestation from the EMS agency and Primary Medical Director **MUST** be submitted to the Department for approval utilizing the **EMT-R Staffing on Ground Ambulances** application **BEFORE** this license level may operate on an ambulance responding to Public Calls.
 - If your agency is approved, you will be notified by email.
 - The approval will be effective for 1 year, after which the agency and Medical Director must complete a new attestation

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

28

Scope of Practice

David Newton



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

29

<https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/protocols-and-scope-practice>

Current Georgia Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel

- [PDF Scope of Practice for EMS Personnel \(SOP-2021\) - Last Updated 10/27/2021](#)
- [PDF Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics \(SOP \(PLS\)-2020-1\) - Last Updated 4/23/2020](#)
- Recent Changes:
 - 4/23/2020 - Extended the mandatory date of compliance with the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics to January 1, 2021. Also separated the Post-Licensure Skills for Paramedics from the main Scope of Practice.
 - 4/23/2020 - Added "Perform specimen collection for infectious diseases." to Assessment Skills. This was added to help the COVID-19 specimen collection and testing efforts in Georgia.
 - 4/23/2020 - Added "Administration or maintenance of high flow oxygen via nasal cannula." to Post-Licensure Skills.
 - 10/27/2021 - Added EMT-R level and updated document to include medication administration routes and crew member response roles. Added clarification to vaccine administration (only during public health emergencies, and not mass vaccination clinics). Added reference to O.C.G.A. § 31-11-55.2. Administration of hydrocortisone sodium succinate intramuscular by emergency medical services personnel; training; reporting; immunity.

30



**GEORGIA OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA
SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR EMS PERSONNEL**

**LAST UPDATED: 10/27/2021
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/27/2021**



**SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR EMS PERSONNEL
GEORGIA OFFICE OF EMS AND TRAUMA
POLICY: SOP-2021 (effective 10/27/2021)**

Table of Contents	4
Introduction	4
Statutory Authority Regarding Scope of Practice	4
Delegation of Skills	5
Scope of Practice Approval	5
Scope of Practice Guide for EMT-R, EMT, EMT-4, AEMT, CT, Paramedic	5
Airway and Breathing Skills	6
1. Supplemental oxygen therapy	6
2. Basic airway management	6
3. Ventilation management	6
4. Suctioning	6
5. Advanced airway management	7
Assessment Skills	7
1. Basic assessment skills	7
2. Advanced assessment skills/Monitoring Devices	8
3. Specimen Collection	9
Pharmacological Interventions/Skills	9
1. Fundamental pharmacological skills	9
2. Advanced pharmacological skills: Venipuncture/Vascular access	10
3. Advanced pharmacological skills: Medication/Fluids Administration	10
4. Medication Administration-Approved Routes of Administration	15
Cardiac/Medical Skills	16
1. Fundamental cardiac skills	16
2. Advanced cardiac skills	16
3. Emergency childbirth management	16
4. Behavioral emergency skills	16
Trauma Care Skills	17
1. Managing injuries	17
2. Managing other trauma injuries	17
3. Movement/extrication of patients	17
Crew Member Response Role	18
1. Patient Caregiver	18
2. Disposition Determination	18

31

Key to Provider Levels		
EMT-R	R	Emergency Medical Technician-Responder
EMT	E	Emergency Medical Technician
EMT-I	I	Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate
AEMT	A	Advanced Emergency Medical Technician
CT	C	Cardiac Technician
PMDC	P	Paramedic

32

Assessment Skills	Levels						Interpretive Guidelines
1. Basic assessment skills (continued)							
b. Perform comprehensive patient assessments		E	I	A	C	P	<i>Includes investigation of chief complaint, past medical history, pertinent negatives, and more detailed assessments of major body systems and anatomical regions.</i>
c. Manual blood pressure measurement.	R	E	I	A	C	P	
2. Advanced assessment skills/Monitoring Devices							
a. Non-invasive (automated) blood pressure measurement	R ⁺ GA	E	I	A	C	P	<i>EMT-Rs may only use an automated BP device under the direction of an EMT or higher licensed Medic, RN, PA, or MD/DO who is present with the EMT-R and the patient.</i>
b. Pulse oximetry measurement	R ⁺ GA	E	I	A	C	P	<i>EMT-Rs may only use a pulse oximetry device in preparation for the arrival of the responding EMS vehicle (with an EMT or higher licensed Medic), or under the direction of an EMT or higher licensed Medic, RN, PA, or MD/DO who is present with the EMT-R and the patient.</i>

33

Pharmacological Interventions/Skills	Levels					Interpretive Guidelines
4. Medication Administration-Approved Routes of Administration						
a. Aerosolized/nebulized	E	I	A	C	P	
b. Endotracheal tube				C	P	
c. Inhaled	E	I	A	C	P	
d. Intradermal					P	
e. Intramuscular			A	C	P	
f. Intramuscular-auto-injector	R	E	I	A	C	P
g. Intranasal			A	C	P	
h. Intranasal – unit-dosed, premeasured	R	E	I	A	C	P
i. Intraosseous			I	A	C	P
j. Intravenous			I	A	C	P
k. Mucosal/Sublingual	E	I	A	C	P	<i>Includes buccal.</i>
l. Nasogastric					P	
m. Oral	E	I	A	C	P	
n. Rectal					P	
o. Subcutaneous			A	C	P	
p. Topical					P	
q. Transdermal					P	
r. Ocular					P*	<i>For the ocular route, Paramedics are only permitted to perform irrigation.</i>
s. Intrathecal						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>
t. Vaginal						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>
u. Otic						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>
v. Intraurethral						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>
w. Penile injection						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>
x. Other routes not listed above						<i>Not permitted at any provider level.</i>

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

34

Crew Member Response Role	Levels					Interpretive Guidelines	
1. Patient Caregiver:							
a. Serve as the primary patient caregiver during transport		E	I	A	C	P	<i>The primary patient caregiver during transport must be a licensee at or above the level of care provided to the patient on scene and at or above the level of care required based on the patient's condition and required treatments during transport and the protocols approved by the local EMS Medical Director. For example, a patient who received a treatment on scene that was at the AEMT level must be attended by a licensee at the AEMT level or higher during transport.</i>
b. Serve as a secondary patient caregiver during transport	R*	E	I	A	C	P	<i>EMT-Rs may only be present in the patient compartment during transport on ground ambulances when a Medic with an EMT license or higher is serving as the primary patient caregiver in the patient compartment during the patient transport.</i>
2. Disposition Determination:							
a. Determine the patient disposition, including patient refusals		E	I	A	C	P	<i>Determination should be based on assessment findings, patient's wishes, and Medical Director protocols.</i>

35

Medic Renewals, Provisional, Reinstatements

Kelly Joiner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

36

Medic Licensing

- **Medic Renewal**
 - Medic Renewal application now open for those that expire 3/31/2022
 - **Agency Pay for Medic Renewal application** open until 2/15/2022
 - Payment by the agency for a medic renewal expires 3/31/2022
 - Already renewed = 160
 - Still to renew = 7,152
- **GA Provisional Medic License (N = 118)**
 - Expiration date 12/31/2021, non-renewable
 - NREMT is no longer issuing Provisional certifications
 - All provisional medics must transition to full NR certification and full GA licensure prior to 12/31/2021 by COB
- **Reinstatement** and late renewal no longer open
 - Anyone wishing to get their license back must complete an initial license application and have current NR at the level of application

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

37

Education Module Upgrade

Brandin Gillman-Clark



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

38

0.00 Completed		40.00 Remaining				<i>In Progress</i>	
40.00 Total Requirements						Level Total: 0.00 of 40.00 Flex Hours: 0.00 of 0.00	
Required			Required	Completed	Remaining		
CEU: Provider Hours			Topic	Required	Completed	Remaining	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Airway/Respiration/Ventilation		0.00	0.00	0.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Cardiovascular/Stroke (Does not include CPR/ACLS)		4.00	0.00	4.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Trauma		4.00	0.00	4.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Medical		0.00	0.00	0.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Operations		0.00	0.00	0.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - Pediatrics		8.00	0.00	8.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	CEU: Provider - OTHER-GENERAL		0.00	0.00	0.00	+	
<input type="radio"/>	Traffic Incident Management		0.00	0.00	0.00	+	

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

39

Self-Entered Courses – Certificate/Transcript Upload now Required – Start Date removed, Topics language updated

Add Course

* Course Name

* Completed Date

* File Upload (Upload PDF Certificate/Transcript) No file chosen
 Accepted File Types: .doc, .docx, .jpeg, .jpg, .mp4, .pdf, .png, .ppt, .pptx, .tif, .xls, .xlsx
 No files larger than 23000 KB

* Topics (list all that apply with the hours of credit for each)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

40

Initial Education Hours

- For medics who are in an approved EMS initial education program during the renewal cycle
 - Hours in the initial education program may be used for continuing education (hour for hour, topic for topic)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

41

Topics Changes for Initial Education

Previous

- 258 topics, based on National EMS Education Standards (with sub-topics)
 - “Didactic In Person”
 - “Lab”
 - “Distance Education”

Current

- 84 topics, based on National EMS Education Standards sections
- Won't be able to do course copies on previous courses (that had old topics)
- Summative Review is now **one** topic

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

42

Why did we change the topics?

- We heard you
- This provides a streamlined way to submit initial education courses through LMS

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

43

Updated Spreadsheet

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/EMS/ems-education/ems-initial-education>

Forms and Documents for EMS Initial Education



- [EMS Initial Education Medical Director Agreement Form](#)
- [Program Director Certification Form](#)
- [Spreadsheet for EMS Initial Education Hours](#)

44

Program Name		
Course Location		
Course Number		
Course Name		
FORMATIVE/SUMMATIVE/OTHER	HOURS	
FORMATIVE HOURS	0	
SUMMATIVE HOURS	0	
OTHER TOPICS	0	
TOTAL FORMATIVE/SUMMATIVE/OTHER	0	
FIELD/CLINICAL/CAPSTONE	HOURS	
TOTAL CLINICAL	0	
TOTAL FIELD	0	
CAPSTONE	0	
TOTAL FIELD/CLINICAL/CAPSTONE	0	
TOTAL ALL HOURS	0	
BREAKDOWN OF HOURS		
<i>*No knowledge related to this competency is required at the EMR level.</i>		
FORMATIVE TOPICS	HOURS	
IE-Airway/Respiration/Ventilation: Airway Management	0	
IE-Airway/Respiration/Ventilation: Artificial Ventilation	0	
IE-Airway/Respiration/Ventilation: Respiration	0	
IE-Anatomy and Physiology		
IE-Assessment: History Taking	0	
IE-Assessment: Monitoring Devices	0	*

45

EMR Course Requirements

Richard Rhodes



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

46

Georgia Requirements for EMR Courses

- Minimum of **80 hours** of instruction (Didactic/Lab/Clinical/Field) to include:
 - BLS for HCP (4.5 hours)
 - NIMS 100 (2 hours, didactic online course)
 - NIMS 700 (3.5 hours, didactic online course)
 - TIM (4 or 10 hours, didactic online courses)
- 5 successful patient assessments
 - Assessments may be completed through simulation or through clinical/field experience
- Up to 10 hours of clinical/field time may be counted towards the 80-hour minimum

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

47

National Education Standards

- Current National Education Standards can be found at <https://www.ems.gov/education.html>
- The National Scope of Practice model can also be found on this page
- These documents should be used to design your curriculum to ensure student success with NREMT



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

48

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

David Newton



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

49

Upcoming Meetings/Trainings

- OEMST Educational Update on Fri, 11/19/2021 @ 11am-12:30pm
 - *Last planned OEMST Educational Update for the year*
 - *Any additional educational updates for the remainder of 2021 will be included on the 12/17/2021 call*
- OEMST Epidemiology and Operations Update on Fri, 12/17/2021 @ 11am

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

50

Position Updates

- Derwin Daniels, Region 3 RTC is retiring
- Crispin Kingrey, currently Region 10 RTC is moving to Region 3 RTC on 11/18

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

51

OEMST is hiring!

<https://dph.georgia.gov/about-dph/careers>

- EMS Safety and Compliance Specialist – Region 3 (Part-time)
- EMS Licensing and Compliance Specialist (posting available soon)
- Assistant Regional Director – Region 3
- Regional Training Coordinator – Region 7
- Regional Training Coordinator – Region 10
- EMS Epidemiologist (closed on 11/7)
- Cardiac Epidemiologist (closed on 11/7)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

52

Questions? And Open Discussion



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

53